

Abstract

Title: Attending physicians' awareness of the possibilities of orthotic–prosthetic treatment of diabetic foot syndrome

Objectives: Objective of the thesis was to find out the current level of knowledge about orthotic-prosthetic therapy of diabetic foot syndrome among doctors, their attitude, and common practice in this field.

Methods: The research was based on KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) type of descriptive study. Questionnaire survey was used to collect data. It was necessary to create a new questionnaire in accordance with WHO guidelines. It was anonymous and shared through electronic form. The survey lasted two months and it was completed by 79 specialists in various fields of medicine. Eleven of them had to be excluded from the research. Data analysis was made in Microsoft Excel 365.

Results: Diabetic foot syndrome is a serious complication of diabetes, which threatens more and more people every year. According to the results of the study, doctors are aware of that and understand the importance of orthotic-prosthetic therapy in management of the syndrome. On the other hand, they think this kind of therapy is underused. Their knowledge in this field is average, especially about orthosis use. The good news is that they want to learn more about this kind of therapy. Doctors don't use offloading devices very often, if they do so, they use special types of shoes. On the other side, the cooperation with podiatric and prosthetic specialists is on a satisfying level. Improving awareness of this topic in attending physicians in the future is challenging task for all included specialists.

Keywords: Diabetes, complication, doctors, specialists, knowledge, attitude, practice, Charcot osteoarthropathy, offloading therapy, orthotics